

USSN: 10/008,468

Case No.: 55525US011

Remarks

Claims 1 to 37 are pending. Claims 1 to 30 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 31 is amended.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 31-37 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner states that in claim 31 it is unclear how the bristles relate to the claimed method of dispensing particles, how and/or from where the bristles are being passed on the screen, how the particles are embedded into the web, and there is no antecedent basis for "the surface".

Claim 31 has been amended to indicate how the bristles relate to the method of dispensing particles and how and from where the bristles are passed on the screen. Support for this amendment can be found in Applicants' specification, e.g., at page 3, lines 10-12. Further, claim 31 has been amended to add the step of embedding the particles in the web. Support for this amendment can be found throughout Applicants' specification such as at page 7, lines 19-31 and page 14, lines 19-20. Still further, claim 31 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for "the surface".

Claims 32-37 each add additional features to claim 31. The amendments to Claim 31 overcome this concern and dependent claims 32-37 are likewise not indefinite.

In summary, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 31-37 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome, and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 31-33, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as purportedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,437,112 (Jin et al).

In addition to the amendments described above, claim 31 has been amended to indicate that the embedded particles have random spacing between particles and that each particle is spaced from all other particles. Support for this amendment can be found in Applicants' specification page 11, lines 3-5, and Fig. 14.

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Jin describes an electrical interconnection established by means of a composite layer medium comprising nonconductive matrix material having electrically conductive magnetic particles embedded therein which are essentially uniformly distributed. See Abstract and col. 2, lines 64-66. Further, Fig. 6 of Jin illustrates even spacing of particles in the interconnection medium. See col. 3, lines 56-57. Jin does not disclose a web of embedded particles having random spacing between particles and that each particle is spaced from all other particles.

Claims 32-33 and 36-37 each add additional features to claim 31. Claim 31 is patentable for the reasons given above. Thus, claims 32-33 and 36-37 are likewise patentable.

Claims 31-33, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as purportedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,240,761 (Calhoun et al).

As indicated above, claim 31 has been amended to indicate that the embedded particles have random spacing between particles and that each particle is spaced from all other particles. Support for this amendment can be found in Applicants' specification, for example, at page 11, lines 3-5, and Fig. 14.

Calhoun describes an adhesive tape containing electrically conductive particles, most of which are substantially uniformly spaced from their five or six nearest neighbors. See Abstract and col. 3, lines 36-37 and lines 42-44. Calhoun does not disclose a web of embedded particles having random spacing between particles and that each particle is spaced from all other particles.

Claims 32-33 and 36-37 each add additional features to claim 31. Claim 31 is patentable for the reasons given above. Thus, claims 32-33 and 36-37 are likewise patentable.

In summary, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 31-37 under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by US 4,437,112 (Jin) and as being anticipated by US 5,240,761 (Calhoun) has been overcome, and that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Allowance of the pending claims, as amended, at an early date is solicited. In addition, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the withdrawn claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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55525US011 RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION